

Remarks:

Claim Objections

The objection to claim 17 has been obviated by clarifying amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kondo* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0192462 A1) in view of *Shikinami et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,855,077) and *Shinji et al.* (JP 2000-119411) is respectfully traversed.

As pointed out in the previous response by Applicants, neither *Kondo* nor *Shikinami et al.* teaches or suggests “a releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin.” *Kondo* describes an application sheet used for a pressure-adhesive sheet for painting. *Kondo* neither teaches nor suggests a releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin. On the contrary, the releasing agents applied to the release liner 4 described in paragraph 47 of *Kondo* are limited to “silicone, wax, fluororesin or the like.”

Shikinami et al. describes a sticking agent of ionic-conductive polymer and fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Kondo*. *Shikinami et al.* contains no teaching or suggestion whatsoever of a releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin.

Nor does *Shinji et al.* teach or suggest the releasing agent layer mainly formed of polyolefin resin which satisfies the numerical limitations recited in the claims. The Examiner has determined that *Shinji et al.* discloses an elastomer whose molecular weight is 15,000 – 500,000. This determination is misplaced. In fact, *Shinji et al.* fails to disclose or teach polyolefin used in the present invention or any equivalent thereof. *Shinji et al.* discloses the use of polyethylene wax. As is clarified in the amendment, claims 1, 3 and 16 now require that the polyolefin resin be selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene α copolymers, olefin-based thermoplastic elastomer, and a mixture of the foregoing. In no way, can these claims be read to cover polyethylene wax.

Please also note that the *Shinji* polyethylene wax has a low average molecular weight (1,000-12,000) (See the abstract). As is clarified in the amendment, claims 1, 3

and 16 now require that the polyolefin resin have a numerical average molecular weight of about 15,000 to about 500,000 determined by GPC. The polyolefin resin of the present invention has a relatively high molecular weight which should be distinguished from the low molecular weight of the *Shinji* polyethylene wax. For the Examiner's reference, Applicant is submitting an English translation of the complete Japanese application of *Shinji et al.*

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is neither anticipated by nor would have been obvious in view of *Kondo*, *Shikinami et al.* and *Shinji et al.*, individually or in combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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